

## Live Stock and Dairy

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Inquiries of Progressive Farmer readers cheerfully an-  
swered.

### IS NORTH CAROLINA ADAPTED TO WOOL AND MUTTON?

Address Before North Carolina Farmers, Convention,  
Raleigh, August 3, 1904, by Samuel Archer, Esq.,  
of Iredell County, N. C.

#### IN TWO PARTS—PART II.

In all States and counties in which sheep husbandry has become an important industry, wool has been the chief object of the business, while mutton was secondary. I fail to see a substantial reason why the South should be an exception to that rule. Time will not permit discussion here, of the many reasons I see why the South will conform to it in the future. The mutton and meat market is a fluctuating one. In fact, there is no dominant mutton market in the South. The wool market is a stable one, slow to change, and there is an increasing demand for it South which would increase almost at once commensurately with an enlarged production offered by our people. The machinery could and would be added rapidly to the cotton manufacturing business already in the South. It would not curtail the demand for cotton, but greatly increase it. It would not cut shorter the cotton crop, but rapidly increase the production of cotton per acre, from the fact that the acres would become sheep walks whereon this most useful animal would change herbage, fodder and grain into the very best of fertilizers for the roots of the cotton crops.

While sheep husbandry is adapted to the subjugation of virgin forests and plains from wild state to successful agriculture, and to the growth of countries from primitive farming to onward and upward progress, the higher and thorough bred classes of all the breeds will and do fully adjust themselves in yielding adequate proportion of profit to the most intelligent management in scientific agriculture. The young man whose mind is being trained in the science of agriculture and stock raising is ambitious to reach its heights, and he may be thinking that these heights of sheep husbandry are ranged along as foot hills between him and mountains of knowledge that to his mind tower in heights beyond.

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Allow me to ask such young men to think with me a few minutes. These blooded, fine wool sheep we have in Iredell County, with poor feed and care will shear eight pounds of wool and dress forty pounds of mutton, but with proper food and care are made to dress twelve pounds of wool and sixty pounds of mutton. Here is a difference of one-third in each purpose for which the sheep are kept. This increase in each purpose requires an adjustment of elements in the sheep's feed necessary for the sheep's dual purpose of producing wool and mutton. Who knows the kind of food needed; when and how to give it? Any one may toss to a sheep an armful of hay and a pint of corn which will fill up its stomach, but that does not supply its wants with the many elements to increase its products of fine wool and extra mutton. One should know how to have all these, and how to give them, and also understand the physical organization and capacity of the particular sheep in hand. Again, from extra specimens of these sheep a ewe may be selected that can be made to clip 22 pounds of wool and net 30 pounds of mutton. Also a ram made to clip 30 pounds of wool and 110 pounds of mutton. Strictly adhering to the law that "like produces like," while carefully avoiding a cross with other blood, one who understands the science of breeding and feeding may by mating such extra specimens,

eventually bring the whole flock up to this high standard and have extra specimens again far above the high average then acquired.

This is the high peak above and beyond the foot hill lines which is reached by so few. There was only one Bakewell in his day, who so much improved the mutton sheep of Great Britain. There was only one Von Homyer, who in his day so much improved the Rambouillet (Spanish) Merina of France. There was but one Edwin Hammond of his day, in the United States, who lead in the wonderful improvement of the Spanish Merino, so that ever since his day it has been known as the American Merino. Each of these men made, so to speak, two pounds of better wool and two pounds of better mutton grow where but one grew before. Thousands of others are now following their lead, and yet I can see that the sheep husbandry business to-day offers to the scientist as great opportunities for improvement as was embraced by either one or all of these great men who have gone before us.

None can be truly a master in this occupation but the scienced farmer and sheep breeder; hence the necessity of acquiring a scientific knowledge of agriculture with stock breeding and rearing before entering on the great life work of being a scientific farmer.

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If one flock can be brought up to such a standard as we practically demonstrate here in Iredell County, so can ten thousand other flocks in North Carolina alone and easily a hundred thousand in the whole South, and at the same time grow double the amount of wheat, corn, cotton, vegetables and fruit that are now being produced.

This is the open door, and the outlook that sheep husbandry offers to the young men of the South, upon whom will soon rest the industrial progress of the young generation that is commencing business in this progressive farming age that has now come to the people of the South as well as of the North.

While this is true, the great sheep husbandry business is not less but more profitable as these improvements go on. The vast number of sheep are usually kept in a country for their wool, mutton and fertilizer products by the average and some of the best farmers as the most important and profitable part of their industrial farm occupation. They are not breeders, properly speaking, but wool and mutton growers, for the money there is in it, and the enrichment it brings to their farms.

It is to the investigation and trial of the business in this light that sheep husbandry offers itself to the great industrial farming and plantation business people of the South. It will not be a wrecker of any part of their business, but it will be a profitable builder not only of itself but of all other parts of their business. It will not increase the hard toil of the plantation, but, while it requires close attention, its tendency is to modify or lessen the hard labor on the farm.

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We would invite any one who still doubts that the Merino, the greatest fine wool sheep in the world will succeed in large flocks and be profitable here in North Carolina to come and spend the day or two with us in water-melon time, and watch the three flocks live and be happy in day time. At night he may sleep under blankets made from the fine wool of these Merino sheep by the Chatham Manufacturing Company, for they have discovered that they can pay us 18 to 21 cents a pound for the wool unwashed and make some money out of the purchase.

They bred their lot of grade mutton ewes that shear over four pounds, to one of our stock rams that shears 32 pounds, and doubled the mother's fleece on the lambs that shear over eight pounds, and they are strong and healthy, blocky built young sheep.

Mr. Elwood E. Smith, well known of this county, bred his grade Shropshires to one of our smaller Merinos last fall, and says he never succeeded in raising over one hundred per cent of lambs from his ewes before, and pronounces them the best lot of lambs he ever raised.

I will say again, because I am so often asked about it, that the Merino, and especially the American Merino, with its grades, is the most suitable, all things considered, with which to stock the farms and plantations generally under their present conditions, and with their present productions in North Carolina and all the States south of the Blue Ridge and southwest of the Ozark Mountains of Missouri.

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I must not be understood as saying this to the exclusion of all or any other breeds of sheep, because the South is so well adapted to sheep husbandry and so diversified in every way that she can and will eventually find most suitable and healthy homes for the profitable management of every well known breed of sheep, and also for cashmere Angora and Milk goats.

Those who wish to handle the old Pine Woods sheep or small coarse wool mutton, or the large coarse combing wool sheep, any or all of them included, should get them, for there is only one thing that I am anxious and enthusiastic about, and that is, let the farmers and planters get more and better sheep of some kind, take care of them, improve and feed them well, and experience will soon inform the intelligent people of the South the kind that will suit them best.

I have only touched upon the main reasons why it might be profitable for the people of North Carolina and the South to get sheep and produce an abundance of wool and mutton, and will only add that the demand in the United States for woollen clothing, and especially fine wool, is ever with us, and is increasingly so. The supply of mutton has increased greatly in the last ten years, and yet the unsupplied demand for mutton is greater to-day than it has ever been in the United States. The outlook for sheep husbandry in general was never better.

#### Do Your Own Shipping.

Ship your market poultry. Don't sell to a traveling buyer if you have anything over two dozen fowls to send to market. Obtain the address of some reliable commission house and before shipping write to the firm, describing what you have to dispose of and asking when to send it and in what shape it should be shipped. Information of this kind will be given willingly by the commission house, and it will always prove of advantage to the shipper. This writer has profited by the advice of these people often enough to make him feel safe in recommending it to others. The commission merchant has an intimate knowledge of the demands of the market. It is to his interest to give his patrons the benefit of this knowledge, as he thereby increases the prospect of securing their future business. There are snide commission houses, but it is the shipper's own fault if he falls into the hands of a firm of that kind.—Wallace's Farmer.

#### Good Things for Fowls.

Turpentine is good for bruises, inflammations, worms and broken limbs.

Tincture of iron is good for chickenpox, sore head and ulcers of all kinds.

Chlorate of potash is good for any throat trouble.

Bicarbonate of soda is good for indigestion.

Camphor is good for gaves in young chicks.

Carbolic acid is good for disinfecting.

The above things are all useful in the poultry house, and while healthy fowls need no medicine, still accidents may happen at any time, and it is well to have remedies at hand.

Common sense treatment will do more to keep the fowls healthy than all the physic in the world.—Home and Farm.